Area under forest cover (1930-82)	(lahs ha.)
Orissa	39·425
Assam	19·796
Gujarat	5·057

Simplification of Rules in granting Permission to open a Hotel

*90. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken during the Sixth Plan period and thereafter to encourage opening of new hotels in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that for opening a hotel about 43 clearances have to be obtained from about 25 different authorities;

(c) whether his Ministry proposes to simplify the process of clearances by the authorities concerned; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) Steps to encourage opening of new hotels in the country are under constant consideration in the Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the other concerned authorities. At present, several incentives/concessions are available to the hotel industry. These include exemption from the MRTP Act in the matter of both new projects and expansion of existing hotels; income tax holiday to new hotels; higher depreciation allowance; central subsidy for construction of new hotels in specified backward areas; interest subsidy on hotel loans advanced by IFCI; Foreign Exchange Incentive quota for overseas advertising/publicity, promotional tours, imports of provisions, equipment including vehicles (up to two in a year); concessional customs duty on a number of items imported by hotels for actual use; priority in the allotment of telephone/telex connections, etc. Besides, some of the State Governments have also accorded hotels/tourism the status of an industry, which entitles hotels to such concessions/incentives as are available to other industries in the respective States.

(b) Excepting statutory approvals like approval of building plans by the local municipal authorities, registration under The SARAIS Act, etc. clearances required for opening a hotel vary according to the extent of facilities planned.

(c) and (d) Different approvals/sanctions are required at different stages involving different Government authorities, both Central and State. Applications for these approvals/sanctions are considered by the concerned authorities in accordance with their prescribed guidelines.

अंदमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में मुक्त पत्तन

*91. **श्री राम चन्द्र विकल :**
श्री वी० नारायणसामी :

क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री 4 मार्च, 1986 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 924 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने अंदमान और निकोबार द्वीप समूह में एक मुक्त पत्तन स्थापित करने का कोई निर्णय ले लिया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब और यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?